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of tasted food, were lying on tables and floor because paper bags were not provided for waste. There was one hot water bottle for thirty or more patients and insufficient covering, so that most of the patients actually suffered from cold in the winter. They were not allowed to wear undergarments. Excellent for hygienic measures, but how about the agonies they endured from pleurisy? Doesn't it sound like cruelty? Frequently there was not enough milk or butter or sugar. The food for the most part was unappetizing and scanty. It was served in almost barbarous fashion, not enough cups or bowls or knives or spoons or forks,—never napkins. It was impossible to get sufficient supplies of any description. Of course there was a shortage of "help," nurses, attendants, ward maids, with an unhappy reaction on the patients who, most of the time, did not have proper, even decent care. Under such conditions would not the morale be lowered? Do you wonder it is said the finer type of nurses will not do tuberculosis work? Is it true, as some say, that a nurse should not express her opinion, that if she does not like conditions she can leave, implying it is not according to the professional code to criticize? How are deplorable conditions to be remedied if a nurse may not make constructive criticism? It is hard to get the real facts unless one is right on the spot, day in and day out. A trip through an institution shows up few of the defects. In some instances the institutions having the most perfectly constructed buildings and the most perfect system of records are doing the least to stamp out tuberculosis through education of the patients and nurses and, through them, the public.

New York

E. D. C.

WAS IT WORTH WHILE?

DEAR EDITOR: I wonder if the following incident from my own private duty experience will be of inspiration to *Journal* readers. In 1917, when the young men were being drafted, I was away on a case when the following incident happened next door. A young married woman was confined, and the hunt for nurses not employed was exhausted. Finally two neighbor women went in and assisted the physician after the delivery and cared for the new born infant. After ten days I had returned from my case, and I was called in to see the young mother, who was not doing well and the baby suffering from malnutrition. The mother was feverish, unable to sleep day or night, milk dried up, bowels unemptied. I cleaned her up to my heart's content, gave an enema, and told her I was going to borrow the baby for a few days, so I brought it over to my own home. I found a food that would agree with it, and soon had it eating and sleeping regularly. The mother began to mend as I posted her on the baby's condition. The baby weighed only 6¾ pounds then. After another week the mother was able to travel to her mother's home in Illinois. After a short interval of time I received a letter from her saying: "I did not write immediately because I wanted to be sure the baby was gaining. He weighed 8½ pounds the last weighing and his little face is getting round and plump. His body is still thin, but is improving. I mix his milk twice a day and hang it about fifteen feet down in the well. I have nothing to do now but take care of him and his clothes. We will never forget your great help when we needed help so badly. Surely when you are called to give an account of your talent you can lay down a multiple increase. I always think of Abou Ben Adhem when I think of you; your name must be written as 'one who loves his fellow men.'" The young husband had to go for war duty and I to Red Cross duty with the A. N. C.

Indiana

E. H.